

## CLAIMS

1           1.       A method of demonstrating a virtual server service that provides use of a  
2 host server to a plurality of clients over a computer network, the method comprising:  
3           receiving an active request from an active client to send an active control  
4 window of an active account of the virtual server service from the host server to an active  
5 client system;  
6           receiving a first request at the host server from a prospective client to  
7 demonstrate the virtual server service; and  
8           under control of the host server, sending a simulated control window of the  
9 virtual server service to the prospective client system in response to the first request, the  
10 simulated control window having a plurality of demonstration components that simulate  
11 corresponding system administration components of the active control window of the virtual  
12 server service.

1           2.       The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the  
3 simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager  
4 page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and  
5           sending the first systems manager page via the host server system to the  
6 prospective client system in response to the second request, the first systems manager page  
7 having at least one first element that can be selected by the prospective client to request that  
8 the host server system send another web page related to the first systems manager page.

1           3.       The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the  
3 simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager  
4 page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and  
5           sending the first systems manager page via the host server system to the  
6 prospective client system in response to the second request, the first systems manager page





7 having a plurality of demonstration components that simulate corresponding system  
8 administration components of an active control window of the virtual server service.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the  
3 simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager  
4 page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

5 sending the first systems manager page via the host server system to the  
6 prospective client system in response to the second request, the first systems manager page  
7 having at least one first element that can be selected by the prospective client to request that  
8 the host server system send another web page related to the first systems manager page.

1 12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the  
3 simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager  
4 page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

5 sending the first systems manager page via the host server system to the  
6 prospective client system in response to the second request, the first systems manager page  
7 having at least one input field that the prospective client can input a hypothetical value for  
8 configuring the virtual server service.

1 13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the  
3 simulated control window, the second request being a request to send a first systems manager  
4 page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

5 sending the first systems manager page via the host server system to the  
6 prospective client system in response to the second request, the first systems manager page  
7 having at least one pull down menu having a plurality a choices from which the prospective  
8 client can select a hypothetical value for configuring the virtual server service.

1 14. The method of claim 10 wherein the demonstration components of the  
2 simulated control window comprise a server status component, an event manager component,

3 a software manager component, a file manager component, an email manager component, a  
4 user manager component, a web manager component, and a database manager component,  
5 and wherein the method further includes:

6 receiving a second request from the prospective client system after sending the  
7 simulated control window to the prospective client system, the second request being  
8 generated from the prospective client system by selection of one of the demonstration  
9 components; and

10 sending a selected systems manager page to the prospective client system in  
11 response to the second request, the selected systems manager page corresponding to the  
12 selected demonstration component.

1 15. A method of demonstrating a virtual server service that provides use of a  
2 host server system to a plurality of clients over a computer network, the method comprising:

3 under control of a prospective client system, sending a first request to the host  
4 server for demonstrating the virtual server service; and

5 displaying at the prospective client system a simulated control window of the  
6 virtual server service received from the host server system in response to the first request  
7 from the prospective client system, the simulated control window having a plurality of  
8 demonstration components that simulate corresponding administration components of an  
9 active control window of the virtual server service.

1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

2 sending a second request from the prospective client system after receiving the  
3 simulated control window, the second request being a request to receive a first systems  
4 manager page of a first demonstration component of the simulated control window; and

5 displaying the first systems manager page at the prospective client system in  
6 response to the second request, the first systems manager page having at least one first  
7 element that can be selected by the prospective client to send another request to the host  
8 server system for another web page related to the first systems manager page.



1           20.    A system for demonstrating a computerized transaction to a prospective  
2 client, comprising:

3           a computer having a central processing unit that executes instructions to  
4 construct and transmit active account messages and demonstration messages, a memory for  
5 storing instructions to be executed, and a non-volatile storage medium;

6           an active account module stored on the non-volatile storage medium, the active  
7 account module having an active account database containing data for active clients and an  
8 active account control window having a plurality of active account messages containing  
9 system administration components that an active client can use to effectuate a computerized  
10 transaction;

11           a demonstration module stored on the non-volatile storage medium, the  
12 demonstration module having a plurality of demonstration messages containing  
13 demonstration components that simulate corresponding system administration components of  
14 the active account control window; and

15           instructions stored in the memory of the computer that cause the central  
16 processor to -

17           (a)    retrieve a demonstration message from the demonstration module  
18 in response to a request from a prospective client without first setting up an  
19 active trial account for the prospective client, and

20           (b)    transmit the retrieved demonstration message to a prospective  
21 client system of the prospective client using a transmission medium.

1           21.    The system of claim 20 wherein:

2           the active account messages comprise a plurality of dynamic web pages that  
3 provide active tools for sending instructions to the computer to effectuate the computerized  
4 transaction; and

5           the demonstration messages comprise static web pages that provide replicas of  
6 the active account web pages and replicas of the active tools that do not provide instructions  
7 to effectuate the computerized transaction.

1           22. The system of claim 20 wherein the computerized transaction is  
2 providing a virtual server service to resellers for configuring a virtual server via a computer  
3 network, and wherein:

4           the system administration messages comprise a plurality of dynamic web pages  
5 that provide active tools for sending instructions to the computer to configure the virtual  
6 server service of the active client; and

7           the demonstration messages comprise static web pages that provide replicas of  
8 the active account web pages and replicas of the active tools, the replicas of the active tools  
9 being disabled from sending instructions to the computer to configure the virtual server  
10 service.

1           23. The system of claim 22 wherein the demonstration messages comprise  
2 an event manager web page having an element to hypothetically control an event of the  
3 virtual server service.

1           24. The system of claim 22 wherein the demonstration messages comprise a  
2 software manager web page having an element to hypothetically install and/or uninstall a  
3 software package of the virtual server service.

1           25. The system of claim 22 wherein the demonstration messages comprise  
2 an email manager web page having an element to hypothetically control an email unit of the  
3 virtual server service.

1           26. The system of claim 22 wherein the demonstration messages comprise a  
2 database manager web page having an element to hypothetically control a database of the  
3 virtual server service.



1           27.    A virtual server service system for providing a virtual server service to  
2 an active client, comprising:

3           a host server having a central processing unit that executes instructions to  
4 construct and transmit active account messages and demonstration messages, a memory for  
5 storing instructions to be executed, and a non-volatile storage medium;

6           an active account module stored on the non-volatile storage medium, the active  
7 account module having an active account database containing data for active clients and an  
8 active account control window having a plurality of active account messages containing  
9 system administration components that the active client can use to configure the virtual  
10 server service in a desired configuration;

11           a demonstration module stored on the non-volatile storage medium, the  
12 demonstration module having a plurality of demonstration messages containing  
13 demonstration components that simulate corresponding system administration components of  
14 the active account control window; and

15           instructions stored in the memory of the computer that cause the central  
16 processor to -

17           (a)    retrieve a demonstration message from the demonstration module  
18 in response to a request from a prospective client without first setting up an  
19 active trial account for the prospective client, and

20           (b)    transmit the retrieved demonstration message to a prospective  
21 client system of the prospective client using a transmission medium.

1           28.    The system of claim 27 wherein:

2           the system administration messages comprise a plurality of dynamic web pages  
3 that provide active tools for sending instructions to the computer to configure the virtual  
4 server service of the active client; and

5           the demonstration messages comprise static web pages that provide replicas of  
6 the active account web pages and replicas of the active tools, the replicas of the active tools  
7 being disabled from sending instructions to the computer to configure the virtual server  
8 service.

1           29.    The system of claim 27 wherein the demonstration messages comprise  
2 an event manager web page having an element to hypothetically control an event of the  
3 virtual server service.

1           30.    The system of claim 27 wherein the demonstration messages comprise a  
2 software manager web page having an element to hypothetically install and/or uninstall a  
3 software package of the virtual server service.

1           31.    The system of claim 27 wherein the demonstration messages comprise  
2 an email manager web page having an element to hypothetically control an email unit of the  
3 virtual server service.

1           32.    The system of claim 27 wherein the demonstration messages comprise a  
2 database manager web page having an element to hypothetically control a database of the  
3 virtual server service.

1           33.    A computer-readable medium having contents that cause a computer  
2 system to demonstrate a virtual server service that provides use of a host server to a plurality  
3 of clients over a computer network by:

4                sending an active control window of an active account of the virtual server  
5 service from the host server to an active client system in response to an active request from  
6 the active client system; and

7                sending a simulated control window of the virtual server service to a  
8 prospective client system that does not have access to an active account in response to a  
9 request received at the host server from a prospective client to demonstrate the virtual server  
10 service.